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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by Pastor Leroy Gilbert of Mount Gilead Baptist Church in Washington, DC.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, our God, restorer of the joy of those who find You. Lord, we praise Your Holy Name. Thank You for giving us lifetime favor and for Your unchanging faithfulness. Lord, You cloth us with gladness.

Today, we pray for our Senators. Shine Your light of wisdom on them and be gracious to them. Remove from them contention and strife, as You infuse them with humility. Lord, keep Your arms of protection around them and their loved ones in these most challenging times.

Rule in the midst of Your world, until the kingdom of Earth will acknowledge Your sovereignty.

We pray in Your great, marvelous Name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Thank you, pastor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The majority leader is recognized.

TRADE BILL AND BULK DATA PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I am glad the Senate voted yesterday to take another step forward on the important trade legislation that is before us. This bill represents an opportunity for Republicans and Democrats to stand together for the middle class, so I hope our friends across the aisle will allow us to seize this opportunity. I am optimistic. We all know that trade is important for American workers and American jobs. We all know that by passing this legislation, we can show we are serious about advancing new opportunities for bigger American paychecks, better American jobs, and a stronger American economy.

We want to process as many amendments as we can. The Republican and Democratic bill managers, Senator HATCH and Senator WYDEN, have done a great job managing this bill in a bipartisan spirit thus far. My hope is that, with some cooperation from across the aisle, we can vote on some amendments today and complete our work on this trade legislation today.

I appreciate all the hard work from both sides that got us to the point we are today. Let's keep the momentum going so we can finally pass a bill that Republicans, President Obama, and many Democrats all agree is good for the middle class, good for the economy, and good for our country.

Let's also move forward in the same spirit to finish our work on the other two important issues on the Senate's to-do list. I will speak about one of them in a moment. But the point is, we have to get our work done, however long it takes. With bipartisan cooperation, we can get it done as soon as this afternoon.

On the issue I mentioned, following the attacks of September 11, the United States improved its laws and legal authorities in an effort to better understand the terrorist threat and, rather than treat it as a crime to be

handled by civilian prosecution, to combat it as a matter of warfare—not as a crime but as a matter of warfare. But that does not mean Al Qaeda and its affiliates stood still. The terrorist threat metastasized under regional affiliates such as Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, al-Shabaab, Al Qaeda in Iraq, and AQIM.

We have all seen the advance of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, which, despite coalition air attacks and Iraqi military ground operations, actually seized Ramadi last weekend. Although ISIL has broken from core Al Qaeda, it is emblematic of how the threat continues to evolve.

Last week, the Director of the FBI explained how ISIL, operating from safe havens within Syria, is now using social media to radicalize Americans by making contact through Twitter and then directing them to encrypted venues. Moreover, through the publication of online magazines, Al Qaeda and ISIL are able to radicalize recruits and reveal the tactics needed for small-scale attacks here at home. These tactics, along with the information gained by terrorist networks from the unlawful disclosure of classified information by Edward Snowden, challenge counterterrorism officials in their efforts to detect terrorist plots and terrorist communications.

This all comes at a moment of elevated threats to the American people.

Let me read something the L.A. Times recently reported. This is what the Times had to say:

Alarmed about the growing threat from Islamic State, the Obama administration has dramatically stepped up warnings of potential terrorist attacks on American soil after several years of relative calm.

Behind the scenes, U.S. authorities have raised defenses at U.S. military bases, put local police forces on alert and increased surveillance at the nation's airports, railroads, shopping malls, energy plants and other potential targets. Driving the unease are FBI arrests of at least 30 Americans on terrorism-related charges this year in an array of "lone wolf" plots, none successful, but

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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